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to meet the difficulties of English students," and "there have been a good many alterations and additions." Needless to say, the printing has been done with extreme care.

A word may be added upon two parts of the primer which seem susceptible of improvement in the direction of clearness. In §§ 103-5, the distinction between the expiration-syllable and the sonority-syllable is not quite clearly worked out. The student might compare to advantage the corresponding sections in Jespersen's *Lehrbuch der Phonetik* (Teubner, 1904) and, for the matter of syllable boundaries, the simple experiments described by Rousselot, *Précis de prononciation française* (1902), pp. 76, 77. The author's opinion (§ 99) that "the regularity of accented syllables has always been the fundamental principle in French versification" needs explanation and, we think, modification. In the same connection, we do not believe that a broad study of Romance metrics would support M. Passy's dictum, that "rhyme [in French] is nothing but a poetical ornament, which may very well be dispensed with."

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*American Birds.* Photographed and studied from life. By WILLIAM LOVELL FINLEY. Illustrated from photographs by HERMAN T. BOHLMAN and the author. New York: Scribners. 1907. Pp. xvi+256. Profusely illustrated.

Messrs. Finley and Bohlman have placed before the public in book form notes and photographs which they have gathered during the last decade from localities in the western part of this country. The home life of a number of birds is charmingly narrated by Mr. Finley, and that he was an eyewitness of all the events recorded cannot be doubted. There is no "nature faking" here, and the birds are treated as birds and not as beings endowed with human attributes.

Mr. Bohlman with the author's aid has furnished the photographs which constitute the framework of the book. We expect now-a-days a goodly number of excellent photographs instead of the crude cuts of former times, and we are in no way disappointed in the present case, for no other book known to us contains so large a number of beautiful illustrations. Many of these have appeared from time to time in the *Condor*.

Each of the twenty-one chapters describes one or more birds belonging to a family, and although the birds are from the West most of them are equally common in the East. We find portraits of chickadees, wrens, kingfishers, and other familiar friends painted for us by pen and camera. The chapters on the "Hummingbirds" and the "Barn Owls" are especially interesting and instructive.

Children as well as adults should like these glimpses of bird life, and after a child has seen his first hummingbird, the reading of an account of this bird such as Mr. Finley has given us cannot fail to foster his interest in these feathered gems.

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